

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 SR-02 ORM-03 AID-20 PC-04 OMB-01 NIC-01 RSR-01

/154 W

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R 161130Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3570

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USUN NEW YORK 442

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MOPS, MCAP, TZ, BY

SUBJECT: TANZANIA-BURUNDI BORDER INCIDENT

REFS: (A) DAR ES SALAAM 2382 (NOTAL); (B) BUJUMBURA 723

1. SUMMARY: GOT SAYS THERE IS NO BURUNDI-TANZANIA PROBLEM, JUST BURUNDI INTERNAL PROBLEM. TANZANIA CONTINUES TO TAKE FIRM LINE WITH BURUNDI, REQUESTING COMPENSATION, APOLOGIES, AND PROMISE OF NO FURTHER ATTACKS. TANZANIAN ACCOUNT OF JULY 12 BORDER CLASH WITH BURUNDI TROOPS IS SUBJECT TO QUESTION. UNIT OF TANZANIAN TROOPS TO REMAIN FOR TIME BEING ALONG BORDER.END SUMMARY.

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2. OVER PAST SEVERAL DAYS GOT HAS ADOPTED COORDINATED POLICY

LINE ON SITUATION IN BURUNDI, I.E, THERE IS NO PROBLEM BETWEEN BURUNDI AND TANZANIA BUT THERE IS SERIOUS INTERNAL PROBLEM IN BURUNDI WHEREIN PEOPLE ARE KILLING EACH OTHER. THIS HAS BEEN ENUNCIATED PUBLICLY ON SEVERAL RECENT OCCASIONS BY FOREIGN MINISTER MALECELA. SPEAKING TO NEWSMEN ON JULY 14, MALECELA SAID: "THERE IS NO PROBLEM BETWEEN TANZANIA AND BURUNDI. TRUTH IS THAT IN BURUNDI THEY HAVE INTERNAL PROBLEM. IT IS INTERNAL PROBLEM, TRIBAL OR NOT. PEOPLE ARE KILLING EACH OTHER." MALECELA ADDED THAT IF UN AND/OR OAU INVOLVE SELVES IN "SO CALLED PROBLEM BETWEEN TANZANIA AND BURUNDI", ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD GO TO BURUNDI AND FIND OUT WHY PEOPLE ARE DYING THERE. JUNIOR MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SEPETU USED SAME LINE IN CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE ON JULY 14. ACCORDING TO LOCAL NEWS SOURCE, PRESIDENT NYERERE ALSO EXPAINED PROBLEM IN THIS FASHION DURING JULY 15 MEETING WITH BURUNDI FOREIGN MINISTER SIMBANANIYE.

3. SPEAKING BEFORE DAR ES SALAAM ROUND TABLE JULY 15, MALECELA SAID BURUNDI MUST TAKE FOLLOWING THREE ACTIONS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE PRIOR RE-ESTABLISHMENT CORDIAL RELATIONS: (A) PAY COMPENSATION FOR LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY AS RESULT OF MARCH 15 ATTACK ON TANZANIAN VILLAGES; (B) APOLOGIZE TO GOT FOR JUNE 29 ATTACK; AND (C) PROMISE NEVER TO REPEAT SUCH INCIDENTS. DURING MEETING WITH SIMBANANIYE, NYERERE REPORTEDLY RAISED COMPENSATION QUESTION AND EXPLAINED THAT TANZANIA WOULD NOT CONSIDER MEDIATION OF DISPUTE BY THIRD PARTY.

4. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COMMENTS BY GOT OFFICIALS HAVE, UNTIL RECENTLY, CONSISTENTLY ARGUED THAT JULY 12 BORDER CLASH BETWEEN TANZANIA AND BURUNDI MILITARY WAS INITIATED BY BURUNDI TROOPS INSIDE TANZANIA. DEFENSE MINISTER SOKOINE AND MALECELA MADE PUBLIC STATEMENTS TO THIS EFFECT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. SEPETU ALSO PRIVATELY INSISTED TO CHARGE JULY 14 THAT THIS WAS SEQUENCE OF EVENTS. ALTHOUGH NOT REPORTED IN TANZANIAN PRESS, K GOMA AREA COMMISSIONER NABALANG'ANYA REPORTEDLY TOLD KENYAN DAILY NATION REPORTER BASED IN DAR ES SALAAM THAT FIGHTING BETWEEN BURUNDI AND TANZANIA BEGAN WHEN BURUNDI SOLDIERS FIRED ON TANZANIANS AT PLACE CALLED NGINA. AFTER VOLLEY OF FIRING ON BOTH SIDES, TANZANIANS PURSUED FORCES 17 MILES INTO BURUNDI. THERE HAS BEEN NO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUGGESTION IN TANZANIAN PRESS THAT TANZANIAN MILITARY WENT INTO BURUNDI. DAILY NATION REPORT PLUS FACT THAT JULY 16 TANZANIAN PRESS COVERAGE OF INCIDENT MAKES NO MENTION OF WHO STARTED FIGHTING RAISES QUESTION AS TO ACCURACY OF TANZANIA'S INITIAL ACCOUNT OF EVENTS (REF. A).

5. IN INTERVIEW FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM KIGOMA ON JULY 15, SOKOINE SAID BORDER AREA IS QUIET. HE CLAIMED 10 BURUNDI

SOLDIERS WERE KILLED IN FIGHTING AND FOUR WOUNDED. DURING VISIT TO BORDER AREA HE SAW NO SIGN OF LIFE ALONG BURUNDI SIDE. HE ADDED THAT UNIT OF TANZANIAN PEOPLE'S DEFENSE FORCE WILL REMAIN NEAR BORDER UNTIL IT IS CLEAR THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER ATTACKS FROM BURUNDI. HE ALSO CALLED ON TANZANIANS IN AREA TO JOIN PEOPLE'S MILITIA.

6. MALECELA COMMENTED TO EMBASSY SOURCE OVER WEEKEND THAT BURUNDI AMBASSADOR MANGONA MIGHT BE "WITHDRAWN" FROM DAR ES SALAAM. THIS WOULD COME AS NO SURPRISE AS RELATIONS BETWEEN MANGONA AND GOT HAVE BEEN POOR FOR SOME TIME. SHINN

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